
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 12.14.2009

Wall Street Journal: "Fed May Trigger Reversal in Risky Assets ... One key question for 2010 is how financial markets will react when the Fed takes back its easy money. The reaction could come sooner than many investors expect."

Wall Street Journal: "Citi Reaches Agreement With Government to Pay Back TARP ... After weeks of wrestling with its regulators and the Treasury Department, Citigroup Inc. succeeded in its argument that it needs to exit the Troubled Asset Relief Program, but conditions on its exit show that regulators continue to be worried about the health of the financial giant."

Wall Street Journal: "Obama Slams 'Fat Cat' Bankers ... President Barack Obama lashed out at Wall Street, calling bankers "fat cats" who don't get it, in an escalation of tensions with the industry."

Wall Street Journal: "Support Grows for Fan-Fred Plan ... A consensus appears to be growing among academics, investors and housing experts that the federal government should retain a role in the U.S. mortgage market over the long term and that the public-private partnership that has defined Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac should continue in some form."

Wall Street Journal: "Paul Volcker: Think More Boldly ... Does financial innovation contribute to economic growth?"

Wall Street Journal: "Fixing the Global Financial System ... More than a year has passed since an unprecedented crisis

pushed the world financial system to the brink."

Washington Post: "Citigroup to repay \$20 billion in bailout money ... Citigroup said Monday that it had reached an agreement to wean itself from the government bailout by the end of 2010, beginning with the repayment of \$20 billion in federal aid."

Washington Post: "Obama presses bank chiefs to lend more ... President Obama, who lashed out Sunday at "fat cat bankers" who "still don't get it," plans to gather the heads of major banks at the White House on Monday to urge them to make more loans and to accept the necessity of greater regulation."

NY Times: "Citigroup Says It Has Reached a Deal to Repay Bailout Funds ... Citigroup reached a deal early Monday morning to be the last of the big Wall Street banks to exit the government's bailout program, after persuading regulators that it was sound enough to stand on its own."

LA Times: "Are we being shortchanged by TARP repayments? ... The headlong rush by big banks to pay back their TARP bailout loans -- Citigroup is the latest candidate looking for the exit -- has prompted a lot of stock-taking about this widely

detested \$700-billion program."

LA Times: "Fed's report to get extra scrutiny ... Investors expect the Federal Reserve to keep a key interest rate at a historically low level. Why? Because Fed Chairman Ben S. Bernanke said so."

LA Times: "Obama's standardized short-sale plan could help troubled homeowners ... If you're in trouble on your mortgage and can't get a loan modification, check out the Obama administration's standardized short-sale plan that's scheduled to roll out in the next several months."

USA Today: "Pay czar grants waivers after government lobbying ... The Treasury Department has told four bailed-out companies that they can't pay some top earners more than \$500,000 cash per year. But it's told the official who made that decision that the rule shouldn't always apply."

Washington Times: "Bernanke's 2nd term could be as tough as first ... The Black Monday stock-market plunge that greeted Alan Greenspan in 1987 was a breeze compared with the hurricanes that confronted Ben S. Bernanke during his first term as Federal Reserve chairman."

Washington Times: "Obama asks 'fat cat' bankers for support ... President Barack Obama is asking bank executives to support his efforts to tighten the financial industry, while bankers are prepared to tell the president he should stop oversimplifying their concerns if he wants good-faith collaboration."

Politico: "Banks: We'll 'step up now' ... Facing White House pressure to increase lending, bank CEOs plan to tell President Barack Obama in a meeting on Monday that they are ready to "step up" and take additional steps to promote economic recovery, industry officials tell POLITICO."